

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3689

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11416

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, PL, ID, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 25, 1973

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON FM CAN THO AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0496

LIMDIS

E. O.11652 GDS

TAGS MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, PL, ID, VS

SUBJECT SITREP FOR JUNE 25, 1973

SUMMARY: THE WEEKEND PASSED QUIETLY IN THE DELTA, SAVE FOR SPIRITED FIGHTING IN CHUONG THIEN. A CANADIAN ICCS

DELEGATE REFLECTS UPON THE BENEFITS OF

POSSIBLE POLISH WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMMISSION. AN XUYEN

VC MAY BE PREPARING FOR POLITICAL STRUGGLE. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) THE DELTA PASSED A RELATIVELY QUIET WEEKEND MILITARYLY. MR IV REPORTED ONLY 17 VC/ NVA " INCIDENTS" FRIDAY, JUNE 22, THE LOWEST IN MONTHS. 30 ALLEGED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS OCCURRED JUNE 23, AND 29 THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FOLLOWING DAY. ACCORDING TO MR IV BRIEFERS, ATTACKS BY FIRE, ESPECIALLY MORTARINGS, ACCOUNTED FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS. THERE WAS BUT ONE REPORTED GROUND ASSAULT, IN DINH TUONG. CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD JUNE

22-24 WERE 49 RVNAF KILLED, 271 WOUNDED, AND FOUR MISSING. THE VC/ NVA LOST 106 KILLED AND FOUR CAPTURED.

(B) ACCORDING TO MR IV BRIEFERS, VC/ NVA " CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS" TOTALED ONLY 244 THE WEEK OF JUNE 18-24, DOWN 40 PER CENT FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK' S 405. RVNAF CASUALTIES-- 124 KILLED, 673 WOUNDED, AND 15 MISSING-- WERE ABOUT THE SAME AS THE PREVIOUS WEEK' S, BUT REPORTED VC/ NVA LOSSES FELL OFF SHARPLY. THE VC/ NVA LOST 324 KILLED AND 3 CAPTURED, COMPARED TO 569 KILLED THE PREVIOUS WEEK. DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 18- 24, THE VC CONCENTRATED ON EXPANDING THEIR AREAS OF CONTROL IN CHUONG THIEN. REPORTED TERRORIST ATTACKS INCREASED FROM SIX THE WEEK OF JUNE 11-17 TO ELEVEN LAST WEEK. (C) HEAVY VC/ NVA INFILTRATION ALLEGEDLY CONTINUED ALONG SUPPLY ROUTES 1- A, 1- B, AND 1- C. TO COUNTER THE INFILTRATIONS, MR IV MOVED ONE BATTALION OF THE 46 TH RANGER GROUP INTO THE TRAM FOREST OF KIEN GIANG ASTRIDE 1- C. ANOTHER RANGER BATTALION WAS DISPATCHED TO HA TIEN DISTRICT, KIEN GIANG, TO SUPPLEMENT THE RANGER BATTALION ALREADY THERE. 7 TH ARVN DIVISION ELEMENTS CONTINUE WORKING TO CUT THE 1- A SUPPLY CORRIDOR IN DINH TUONG.

(D) THE CHUONG THIEN USAID REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT VI THANH SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT THE 16 TH ARVN REGIMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING AN OPERATION IN HOA AN VILLAGE OF LONE MY DISTRICT TO RECAPTURE AN AREA OCCUPIED BY THE VC PRIOR TO THE JUNE 15 CEASEFIRE. BECAUSE THE 16 TH REGIMENT DOES NOT REPORT TO SECTOR HE WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN DETAILS. HE LEARNED, HOWEVER, THE DEAD 16 TH REGIMENT SOLDIERS WERE SEEN ALONG HIGHWAY 31 ON SATURDAY JUNE 23. A NUMBER OF 16 TH REGIMENT SOLDIERS ARE REPORTED UNDERGOING TREATMENT IN CHUONG THIEN HOSPITAL. IN KIEN HUNG DISTRICT OF CHUONG THIEN THE NVA 95 A BATTALION ATTACKED A BATTALION OF THE 21 ST ARVN DIVISION' S 33 RD REGIMENT THE MORNING OF JUNE 24. SINCE THE HIGH- LEVEL MR IV OFFICER WHO PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION DECLINED TO MENTION CASUALTY FIGURES, WE SUSPECT THEY WERE UNFAVORABLE TO THE GVN.

(E) AN XUYEN REPORTED ONLY LIGHT MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE JUNE 22-24 WEEKEND. THERE WERE EIGHT VC MORTARING

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INCIDENTS AND FOUR LIGHT GROUND CONTACTS. THE LARGEST CONTACT OCCURRED AT 1800 HOURS JUNE 22 WHEN A PROVINCIAL RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON ENGAGED A VC UNIT OF UNKNOWN STRENGTH. THEY KILLED FIVE VC AND CAPTURED TWO M-16' S WHILE SUFFERING THREE WOUNDED.

2. ICCS: LTC JOZSEF KIM KOMLOSI, HUNGARIAN REGION VII ICCS CHIEF, TOOK A DRIVE TO VI THANH JUNE 18. ENROUTE COL KOMLOSI ENCOUNTERED AN ARVN UNIT IN NORTHERN CHUONG THIEN MOVING OUT INTO THE PADDY FIELDS UNDER COVER OF SUPPORTING ARTILLERY FIRE. KOMLOSI HAS WRITTEN A LETTER TO ICCS CENTRAL SAIGON CLAIMING THE THE ACTIVITY HE WITNESSED WAS A GVN CEASEFIRE VIOLATION. COMMENT: IT STRIKES US AS UNUSUAL FOR A RANKING COMMUNIST ICCS DELEGATE TO BE

DRIVING UNESCORTED IN A PROVINCE SUCH AS CHUONG THIEN WHERE THE HIGH LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE TO ICCS PERSONNEL. KOMLOSI WAS MORE THAN LIKELY LOOKING FOR JUST THE SORT OF ACTIVITY HE FOUND. WHEN HE SUBMITTED HIS LETTER TO THE CANADIAN CHAIRMAN LAST WEEK AND ASKED HIM TO FORWARD IT TO SAIGON THE CANADIAN CHAIRMAN RESPONDED " SEND IT YOURSELF." THE CANADIAN EXPLAINED THAT NO OTHER ICCS MEMBER HAD WITNESSED THE ACTION BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT KOMLOSI WAS ENTITLED TO FORWARD HIS OWN DELEGATION'S VIEWS IF HE SO WISHED.

(B) A CANADIAN ICCS OFFICER RECENTLY TOLD THE MY THO VICE CONSUL THAT THE DILEMMA PRESENTED BY CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMMISSION COULD BE RESOLVED IF EITHER THE POLES OR HUNGARIANS ALSO WITHDREW, THUS TURNING THE ICCS INTO A TWO- PARTY COMMISSION. HE SAID TWO COULD DO THE WORK OF FOUR, SINCE THE COMMISSION IS ALWAYS SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE. HE INDICATED THE CANADIANS WOULD PREFER THE HUNGARIANS REMAIN. EARLIER, WE REPORTED THAT POLISH ICCS MEMBERS HAVE DISCUSSED WITHDRAWAL, BUT THAT THE INDONESIANS WOULD LIKELY BALK AT THE PROSPECT OF BEING LEFT ALONE TO CHECK THE HUNGARIANS (CAN THO 0484).

3. VC ACTIVITIES: ACCORDING TO A DEPENDABLE AN XUYEN POLICE SOURCE, A VC CA MAU PROVINCE COMMITTEE SECRETARY IN MID- MAY SAID THAT DURING THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION THE COMMUNISTS WILL SUPPORT NEUTRAL ELEMENTS SUCH AS DUONG VAN MINH, IF THEY DECIDE THEY THEMSELVES CANNOT WIN. THIS IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT IN AN XUYEN, AT EAST, THE COMMUNISTS ARE PREPARING FOR A POLITICAL
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STRUGGLE WITH THE GVN.

4. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: IN SPITE OF A SAIGON ORDER TO CANCEL PROVINCE LEVEL ARMED FORCES DAY OBSERVANCES, VINH BINH PROVINCE CHIEF COL NGUYEN HUU KIE OVER A TRUNCATED CEREMONY IN THE YARD OF THE PROVINCE ADMINISTRATION CENTER ON THE MORNING OF 19 JUNE. KIEM, WHOSE WIFE AND TWO DAUGHTERS WERE ASSASSINATED THE NEXT DAY, HANDED OUT CASH AND MEDALS TO WINNERS IN HIS " VC EXTERMINATION CAMPAIGN" (CAN THO 0468). KIEM'S AGGRESSIVENESS HAS KEPT THE VC OFF BALANCE. THE VC 306 TH BATTALION HAS TWICE TRIED AND FAILED TO ENTER THE PROVINCE FROM VINH LONG. KIEM CLAIMS 73 VC KILLED JUNE 13-18, WITH THE LOSS OF ONLY FOUR RVNAF KILLED AND 18 WOUNDED. WINER UNQUTE
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